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Cort, Richard
Address to agriculturists

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ADDRESS TO AGRICULTURISTS,

&c. &c.

WILSON AND SON, PRINTERS, 57, SKINNER STREET, LONDON.

ADDRESS TO AGRICULTURISTS,

ON THE

National Advantages

OF
P.B.F.

PROVINCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

FOR MAKING

CHEAP SALT FROM SEA WATER,

&c. &c.

By R. CORT,

LATE SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND.

"He who makes two blades of grass grow, where but one did before, deserves
better of mankind than the whole race of politicians."

1838.

WORKS OF MONTAIGNE

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Address

TO AGRICULTURISTS.

THE time is now arrived when formidable attempts are making, and will no doubt be vigorously prosecuted, for REPEALING THE CORN LAWS.

Nothing, therefore, ought to be more acceptable to the Agricultural Public, at the present moment, than the introduction of any object calculated to improve the condition and strengthen the hands of all who are interested in the cultivation of the soil, or any improvement that can in any way enable the English Farmer to stand up successfully against *Foreign* competition.

To prove that British Farmers are not at present in a condition to compete successfully with Farmers abroad, it is only necessary to take a slight glance at the importation of Agricultural produce, *the whole of which might be grown here by the application of cheaper and better manures*, thus insuring an adequate supply to meet the increasing demands of the people. The importation of Foreign produce, in the year 1833,

amounted to nearly Fourteen Millions sterling* ; while the value of bones alone imported for manure was not less than £541,845, during the five years ending in 1835 : add to this rape-seed, 354,887 quarters, which, at a fair price, was worth £621,000 ; also rape and linseed cake, 2,313,411 cwts. which quantity, supposing one half to be rape, and the other half linseed cake, at 7s. per cwt., will amount to £809,693, making a total on these articles alone of £1,672,538 sterling ; added to which, large importations are taking place in Scotland, and other parts of the Empire, of animalized carbon, at £3. 3s. per ton.

Mr. Kimberley, who is farming extensively at Trotsworth, near Egham, in Surrey, observes, in describing the valuable discovery of his “liquid manure” :—

“ And all this is going on (that is, the importation of Foreign manures) while, at a moderate calculation, *from three to four millions of pounds sterling* in value of what forms the staple manure of foreign countries is washed into our rivers—a shameful waste, and in many cases a dangerous nuisance—the evils and loss from which are ably set forth in the work on ‘Liquid Manures,’ by Cuthbert William Johnson, Esq. ; and in the ‘Report,’ by Dr. Granville, to the Directors of the Thames Improvement Company. These works are at this time highly worthy of the attention of every Landed Proprietor and Farmer, as it is there shewn that in London alone there is a waste annually of

From 1797 to 1811, 20 years, the value of Foreign Corn imported exceeded 57 Millions sterling.

712,611 tons of capital manure, although even this quantity would, at 4 tons per acre, manure 158,152 acres of land each year; and supposing it manured once in four years, would keep 712,611 acres, or 1113 square miles, in a high state of cultivation. But if this valuable material is used in a way which I shall hereafter explain, it may be made to manure eight times as many acres. We will, however, only take it at half, or four times, which is much below the real quantity, and it will be found sufficient for 2,850,444 acres, or 4552 square miles of land, and this, be it remembered, from London alone. What, then, must be the loss in the three kingdoms, at the same time that we are *expending Fourteen Millions sterling per annum for Foreign produce.*"

The gross annual Agricultural Produce of the United Kingdom might be estimated at about £200,000,000, which may, by better modes of fertilizing the soil, be readily doubled.

The gross annual expense of cultivation, exclusive of rent, is about £100,000,000, which may be reduced *one-half* when the soil is rendered more fertile.

And again, Col. Le Couteur, in his "Treatise on the Varieties, Properties, and Classification of Wheat," is of opinion, that by proper attention to the selection of farinaceous seeds, it is possible to produce an increase in the annual value of the wheat crop of the British Isles to the extent of £18,900,000; while Mr. Kimberley estimates, that his new manure might effect an economy in that department of husbandry to the yearly

value of at least £11,000,000*: for "I have," he remarks, "after numberless experiments, made during several years, succeeded, by an economical yet powerful mixture of materials, in producing a liquid manure equally efficacious and cheap, that will save to the Farmer in many cases a sum equal to his rent, and give him the power of making any quantity his circumstances may require; and, by its enriching power and retentive qualities, keep his land in the highest possible state of fertility."

Mr. Kimberley states, that he uses a considerable quantity of Salt in the preparation of his Liquid Manure, the Recipe for which he is about to publish. But as the Salt used by this gentleman varies at present in price, the coarsest quality being 42s., and the best 54s. per ton, it follows that if Salt can be delivered generally in the Agricultural Districts of the best quality averaging only *one-half less in price*, and Mr. Kimberley's Liquid Manure should be generally adopted, *Farmers may not only save in many cases a whole rent*, but the cost of the Liquid Manure will be very considerably reduced, so as to bring it within the reach of the poorest Cultivator of the Soil, besides giving him some of the most valuable materials for preventing and curing the rot in sheep—improving the condition of his cattle—and enabling him to use *double or treble* the quantity of Salt, if required†.

The late John Curwen, Esq., when a member of the House of Commons, stated in his evidence given before

* The cultivated Lands of England exceed 46 millions of acres.

† See Mr. Kimberley's Letter to Cuthbert William Johnson, Esq. in the Twelfth Edition of his *Essay on Salt*, accompanying this Address.

a select Committee on the Salt Laws, that the saving to be made by using Salt for Sheep and Cattle of all kinds, in the prevention of losses, and improvement of condition alone, without reference to agricultural produce; would exceed *Three Millions Sterling annually.*

These advantages, however great they appear to be, are not the only benefits which may result to the LANDED INTEREST from the establishment of Salt and Alkali* Works in suitable situations contiguous to Lime stone or Chalk, founded on the Patents of Baylis and Wilson, because, where Salt Works are erected, not only that article will be made from *Sea Water*, fully equal in quality for Agricultural purposes to any from the best *Brine Springs*, but Lime also, and *with the same fuel serving for both operations.* Owners and Occupiers will thus save on the average at least 25 per cent. in the article of Lime alone, besides which, Lime, when mixed with Salt, is known to form *Soda*—a still better manure than Salt alone, all of which may be manufactured in their respective districts, and delivered in most cases at their own doors.

It is therefore quite impossible to contemplate objects better calculated to render the English cultivator independent of *Foreigners*, than the establishment of the pro-

* Three tons of Salt will make one ton of mineral Alkali, and as the demand for Home consumption, principally for the soap trade, and export, will not be less than 100,000 tons, here are the means of consuming 300,000 tons annually of salt alone ; besides, the manufacture of Alkali would render the Country independent of Spain for the supply of *Barilla* as a substitute, which in 1834 amounted to 512,750 cwt., and last year only 90,000 cwt., and even this quantity will be more and more superseded, by cheaper methods of making Salt.

posed Salt, Alkali, and Lime Works, in connexion with the Agricultural districts, thus insuring Salt, Soda, and Lime, on the most economical terms.

The proprietors of Baylis and Wilson's patents, with a view to facilitate the introduction of the proposed Salt Establishments in the Agricultural Districts as quickly and simultaneously as possible, have appointed Mr. R. Cort, late Secretary to the Central Agricultural Society of Great Britain and Ireland, No. 8, Manchester Buildings, as their agent to carry into effect that object, for the general benefit of the **LANDED INTEREST**.—See Note, at the end (page 12.)

As regards the probable consumption that may be expected to afford an adequate scope for beneficial investment in the proposed local Salt Works, it may not be irrelevant to notice, that in the year 1773, when the late learned Dr. Watson published his Essays, he stated, that the demand for Salt as a manure had become even then so great, that at one town only, Northwich, in Cheshire, *the Farmers purchased three thousand tons annually for that purpose*, although it was then burthened with a duty of 13*s.* 4*d.* per ton, and wheat was as low as 45*s.* per quater. The total demand for Salt in England is now about half a million tons annually. But if only *one-tenth* of the 46 millions of acres, at present under cultivation, were to benefit by the use of Salt, at *sixpence per bushel*, in the ratio of half a ton per acre, the demand for agriculture alone, besides all other purposes, would be equal to *two millions three hundred thousand tons annually*!

At such Agricultural improvements every lover of his

country will rejoice ; since, by advances in science like these, the English yeoman will be soon able to defy all *foreign* competition ; for, by greatly increasing the fertility of his land *with manures exclusively his own*, in any quantity, always at command, and at the cheapest rate, he will reap the just reward of his labours ; and then, when the quantity and consequent cheapness of his crops is by such efforts amply increased, he need not fear *Foreign* interference, as England, from the increased prolificness of her soil, may become a **CORN EXPORTING COUNTRY.** The Commercial and Shipping interests will also be greatly improved, by the same means of cheapening the article of *Salt*, while by rapidly extending and increasing the prosperity of our *Fisheries*, it will afford at all times the best means of strengthening and upholding the *Naval Power* of the Nation.

R. CORT.

No. 8, Manchester Buildings,
Parliament Street, London,
24th November, 1838.

NOTE.

THE *Central Agricultural Society of Great Britain and Ireland* was formed in 1835, expressly for Agricultural Protection and Agricultural Encouragement, totally divested of party or political feeling. President, His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K. G. Vice Presidents, Earls Tankerville and Darlington, M. P.; Lords Wynford and Western; Sir George Sinclair, Bart. M. P.; General Sir Charles Broke Vere, M. P.; Edward Wodehouse, Esq. M. P.; William Ormsby Gore, Esq. M. P.; John Benett, Esq. M. P.; Henry Handey, Esq. M. P.; E. S. Cayley, Esq. M. P.; John Maxwell, Esq.; besides forty-five Baronets, more than seventy Members of Parliament, sixty-six local subscribing Agricultural Associations, and several hundred Owners and Occupiers of Land.

The *English Agricultural Society* has since come forward to carry out Agricultural Encouragement alone, by uniting some of the most influential parties in the State, many of whom doubtless only wait the opportunity for co-operating cordially with a similar Institution confined to Agricultural Protection. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the *Central Agricultural Society*, when it assembles the day after the next Smithfield Cattle Show, will determine upon affording to the Members of the English Agricultural Society an opportunity so desirable, by remodelling the constitution of the "Central," and confining its future operations to Agricultural Protection—then may we expect to see the two Great Agricultural Societies steering an even course hand in hand together, each assisting the other in following out objects the success of which is vitally interesting to both, as well as to the whole community, and among these the very objects proposed in the above Address, and

accompanying Pamphlets*, are well calculated to enable the Landed Aristocracy of the three kingdoms, at no distant period, to afford the *Repeal of the Corn Laws*, and to secure the independence, prosperity, and safety of our Country.

To those who may not know the author of the present *Address*, it may not be considered obtrusive to add the following—

TESTIMONIALS.

At the ANNIVERSARY MEETING of the CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, held at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, in the Strand, on the 14th of March, 1837; E. S. CAYLEY, Esq. M.P. in the Chair;

Resolved,

“ That the cordial thanks of the Society be given to the Secretary, Mr. Cort, for his great exertions in bringing forward, at his own risk and expense, the Invention of Captain Rudkin, for better securing the Spirit Duties, and assisting the Government in dispensing with the Malt Tax.”

At a MEETING of the GENERAL COMMITTEE of the Central Agricultural Society, held at No. 8, Manchester Buildings, Parliament Street, on the 3d of May, 1838; Wm. ORMSBY GORE, Esq. M.P. in the Chair; for the purpose of suspending the Proceedings of the Society till the day after the Smithfield Cattle Show,

Resolved—

“ That the thanks of the Society be given to Mr. Cort, the Secretary, for his constant and zealous exertions for the advantage of the

* *On the advantages of BAYLIS's and WILSON's Patents for the Manufacture of Salt from Sea Water and Inland Brine Springs, &c. ; with also the twelfth edition of an Essay on Salt, containing Directions for the use of the same for Agricultural Purposes :* by permission of the Author, Cuthbert William Johnson, Esq. Barrister at Law.

Society, and in so doing the Committee express a hope that hereafter they may be enabled to evince their gratitude in a more efficient manner."

Since which, the trial of Captain Rudkin's Invention has been resumed at the Government Distillery, by the special direction of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, under the superintendence of Dr. Birkbeck, merely to satisfy a *doubt* of very minor importance raised by the Excise authorities, and the following communications (A and B) will shew how triumphantly that *doubt* has been satisfied:—

(A.)

38, Finsbury Square, Nov. 15, 1838.

My dear Sir,

The inclosed (B) ought to have been with you yesterday morning; but my engagements were such, that I could not finish it so early as I intended. It will not, I hope, be too late for your purpose.

You will rejoice with me that our labours—for you have been a valuable and industrious co-operator in this difficult affair, are now likely to be brought to a favourable conclusion. Whatever may be the result to the great interests of Agriculture, the adoption of Mr. Rudkin's Machine, the accommodation of the honest distiller, and the augmentation of the revenue, must necessarily and largely ensue.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Very truly yours,

GEORGE BIRKBECK.

R. Cort, Esq.

Committee Rooms of

The Central Agricultural Society.

(B.)

38, Finsbury Square, Nov. 15, 1838.

My dear Sir,

The Committee of the Agricultural Society having been informed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, through its valuable chairman, Mr. Cayley, that another experiment was in progress to complete the examination of Mr. Rudkin's Machine, I have great pleasure in communicating, for the information of those gentlemen, the results of that experiment. I may remind you, though I

believe you are aware of the fact, that a *doubt* was expressed by the Excise Reporters, upon my Report as to the identity of the two fractional portions of fluid collected in the two vessels inclosed in the Safe for examination by two superior officers, and affording, as we propose, the only foundation for the charge. This *doubt* was grounded on an *imaginary* difficulty, which my acquaintance with the construction of the Machine never allowed me to entertain. That it was *imaginary*, our trial, on Tuesday last, has most unequivocally demonstrated, *five competent persons having declared, when the two portions had acquired the same temperature, that there did not exist the slightest difference of specific gravity.* The fluid, all agreed, was the most *disadvantageous* that could well be supposed for the experiment, and the Hydrometer, of large scale, and very distinct divisions, was admitted to be of extraordinary capability. Nothing now remains, I apprehend, but a proper introduction of the Machine into the regular distilleries of the United Kingdom.

I am ever very faithfully yours,

GEORGE BIRKBECK.

R. Cort, Esq.

The very skilful and honourable conduct of Dr. Birkbeck throughout this most important experiment cannot be too highly appreciated. The Central Agricultural Society has nobly done its duty; and having thus far succeeded in one of the first steps to promote the best interests of Agriculture, it may be presumed that the "Central" will not be less willing to assist in realising the objects set forth in the above Address, especially when it is found that these objects will do more to secure Agricultural *Protection* and Agricultural *Encouragement*, than has yet been attempted, much less accomplished, in this or any other country.

R. C.

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